IN THE CLAIMS:

1.　　(Currently Amended)　A computer system, comprising:

a central processor unit (CPU); ~~and~~

a programmable read only memory (ROM) ~~("ROM")~~ coupled to said CPU, said ROM containing a digital image;

wherein said CPU programs its ROM during a system initialization, wherein the system initialization further comprises a booting of said system;

a connection to a network and wherein, during the system initialization, said system sends a message to a server coupled to the network to determine whether an upgraded image is available for said ROM; and

wherein, during the system initialization, said system receives an upgraded image and flashes said ROM with the upgraded image if the upgraded image is available for said ROM.

2.　　(Canceled)

3.　　(Canceled)

4.　　(Currently Amended)　The system of claim 1 ~~2~~ wherein said system receives the upgraded image from said server.

5.　　(Currently Amended)　The system of claim 1 ~~2~~ wherein said system receives a link to another server which provides the upgraded image.

6.　　(Currently Amended)　The system of claim 1 ~~2~~ wherein said message includes an indication of the version of the ROM's current image.

7.　　(Currently Amended)　The system of claim 1 ~~2~~ wherein said message includes an indication of the class of the ROM.

8.　　(Currently Amended)　The system of claim 1 ~~2~~ wherein said message includes an encryption key to be used to help assure the authenticity of the image.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of upgrading an image on a ROM, comprising:

(a) performing a system initialization of a system containing the ROM, wherein the system initialization further comprises a booting of the system where the system further comprises a CPU; and

(b) while performing said system initialization, transmitting a message to a server to determine whether an upgraded image exists for the ROM; and

receiving an upgraded image and flashing the ROM during said system initialization.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 further including, during the system initialization, receiving the upgraded image from form said server.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 further including, during the system initialization, receiving a link from said server, said link pointing to another server that contains said upgraded image.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein said message includes an indication of the version of the ROM's current image.

14. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein said message includes an encryption key to be used to help assure the authenticity of the image.

15. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein said message includes an indication of class of the ROM.

16.   (Currently Amended) A ROM image system, comprising:

a server; and

a database accessible by said server, said database storing information regarding ROM images;

wherein said server receives a message from a computer <u>that is currently undergoing a system initialization</u> to determine if an upgrade exists for the computer's ROM image, uses said information to determine if an upgrade is available for the computer's ROM image and transmits a message to the computer indicating whether an upgrade is available <u>during the system initialization of the computer</u>.

17.   (Original) The system of claim 16 wherein said response includes an upgraded ROM image.

18.   (Original) The system of claim 16 wherein said response includes a pointer to where an upgraded image is located.

19.   (Original) The system of claim 18 wherein said pointer includes a URL.

20.   (Original) The system of claim 18 wherein said pointer includes an IP address.

21.   (Currently Amended) A method of providing ROM image updates, comprising:

(a)   receiving a request <u>in a server</u> for a ROM image update <u>from a computer system undergoing a system initialization</u>;

(b)   determining <u>in the server</u> whether <u>the</u> a ROM image update exists;

(c)   transmitting a response indicating whether <u>the</u> a ROM image update exists <u>before the system initialization in the computer system has completed</u>.

22.   (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein (c) includes transmitting an upgraded ROM image.

23.   (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein (c) includes transmitting a link to where an upgraded ROM image can be found.

24.   (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein the link includes a URL.

25.   (Original) The method of claim 23 wherein the link includes an IP address.

26.   (Original) The method of claim 21 wherein (c) includes transmitting information describing a problem the update solves.

27.   (Currently Amended) An enterprise computing system, comprising:
        a plurality of computers, each having a programmable ROM;
        a proxy enterprise ROM server to which the computers couple, said proxy enterprise ROM server communicating with a network external to the enterprise; and
        wherein said proxy enterprise ROM server includes a first storage area for an untested a ROM image update, and a second storage area for an approved ROM image update, and at least one of said computers, during its initialization, checks the second storage area for requests the approved a ROM image update to be installed in the at least one of said computers, wherein the approved ROM image update comprises the untested ROM image update that has undergone at least one suitable approval test. from said proxy enterprise ROM server.

28.   (New) The computer system of claim 1, wherein the system sends the message to the server coupled to the network to determine whether the upgraded image is available for said ROM upon each occurrence of the system initialization.